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BY HIS
HIGHNES COUNCIL
IN
SCOTLAND,
For the Government thereof:

A
DECLARATION
For Regulating and Redressing of Abuses
in the Measures and Prices of
COALS.

Thursday, the 27. day of March, 1656.

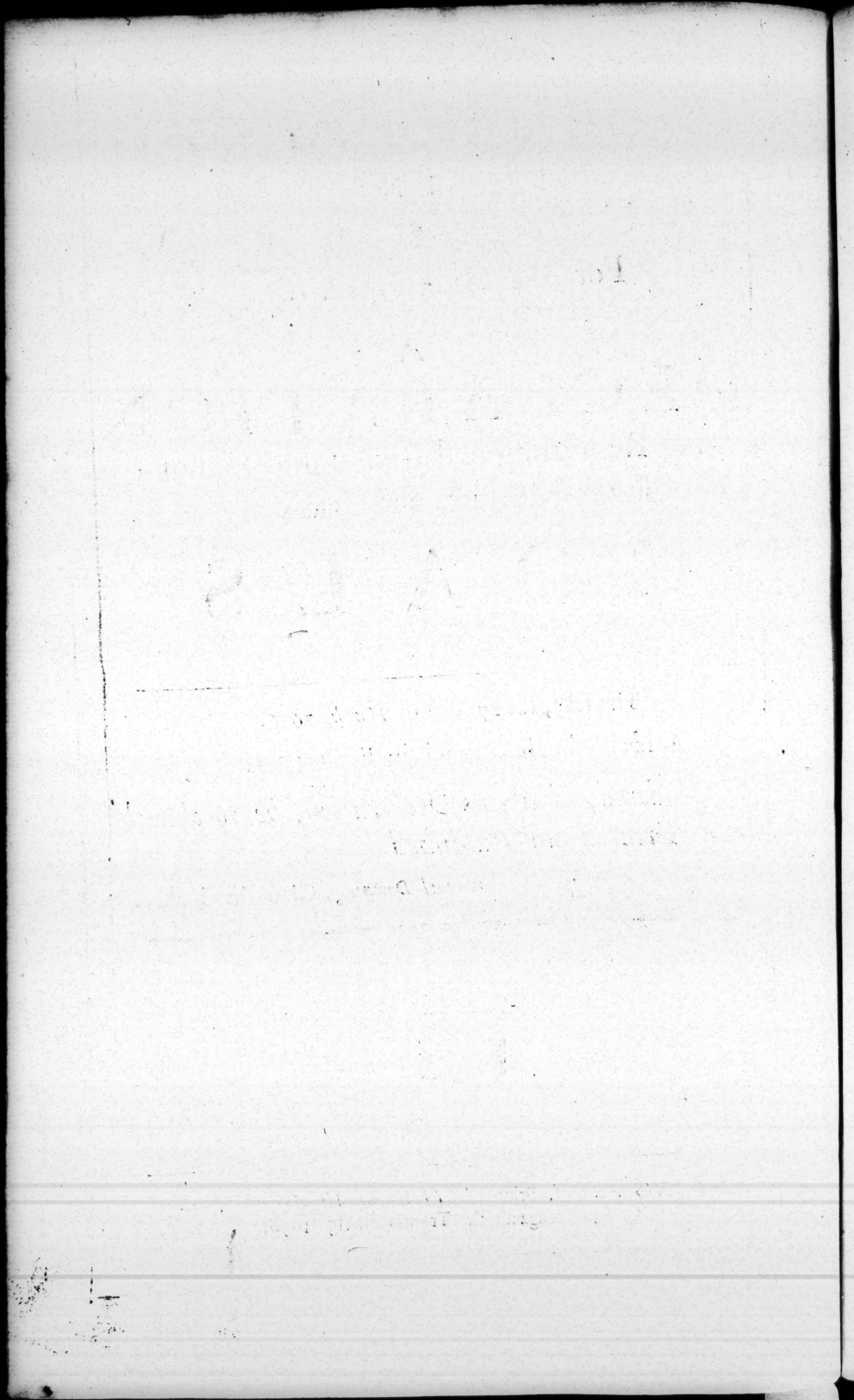
At his Highness Council in EDINBURGH,

Ordered, That this Declaration, be forthwith
Printed and Published.

Emanuel Downing, Cl. of the Council.



EDINBURGH, Printed by Christopher Higgins, in Hartf-
Close, over against the Trone-Church, 1656.



(3)

A DECLARATION for Regulating and Re-dressing of Abuses in the Measures and Prices of COALS.



HEREAS upon Petition and Application made by the Free Burghs of this Nation, to His Highness Council in Scotland for Government thereof, praying that the Commission granted to certain Gentlemen and others mentioned in the Act of Parliament the Twentieth of July, one thousand six hundred forty four years, intituled, Act and Ratification in Favours of the Natives anent the Coal, may be renewed to such Persons as the said Council should think fit for the better execution of the said Act of Parliament, and diverse Acts and Decrees of Secret Council, touching the Regulating Measure, Price and Sale of Coals, and the preferring of Natives to Strangers: The said Council after consideration of the said Act of Parliament, and of the Acts and Decrees of Council mentioned in the same, have found the foresaid desire just and reasonable; And that the Coal-Masters and others having interest in the Coal-Hughes in the Nation, taking a boundless and arbitrary Liberty to sell their Coals contrary to the said Acts of Council and Parliament, to the heavy prejudice of the poor People in this Nation; There is the same, if not greater necessity then was the time of making of the said Act of Parliament, that the same course should be taken, and the Commission contained in the said Act should be renewed, for putting the said Acts of Council and Parliament in execution: It is therefore Ordered and Declared by the said Council, That the Persons hereafter named, shall be Commissioners within

their respective bounds and places hereafter named; viz. **Sir Robert Drummond of Medop**, **Leonard Lydcot Esquire**, **Dundas elder of Dundas**, **Dundas younger of Dundas**, **George Dundas of Dundston**, **George Drummond of Carlowry**, **Andrew Bryson**, **Thomas Read Esquire**, **Sir Thomas Nicholson of Carnock**, **Sir William Bruce of Stenhouse**, **Claud Hamilton Esquire**, **John Coburn Esquire**, for the Bounds by West the Queens-ferry, to Stirling, upon the South-side of the Water of Forth; And **Henry Whalley Esquire**, **Timothy Wilks Esquire**, **Sir James Macgill of Cranston**, **Sir John Wauchop of Middery**, **Samuel Johnston Esquire**, **Richard Clifton Esquire**, **William Walters Esquire**, **Samuel Atkins Esquire**, **John Phips Esquire**, **Abraham Holmes Esquire**, **Jeremiah Smith Esquire**, **Andrew Abernethy Esquire**, **Mark Casse of Cockpen**, **William Purveis of Abyhill**, **Master Robert Preston**, and **James Brown in Muscleburgh**, for the whole Bounds of the Sheriffdom of Edinburgh Principall; And **John Earl of Haddington**, **Sir Robert Fletcher of Saltoun**, **Robert Hebrun of Keith**,

Coburn of Ormeston, **Patrick Coburn of Clerkinton**, **George Hume of Foord**, **William Earle of Roxburgh**, **John Earle of Tweedale**, **Sir Adam Hebrun of Humby**, **Henry Whalley Esquire**, **Captain Thomas Symnell**, **James Cockburn of Armeston**, **Robert Acheson of Sideserf Esquire**, **George Hoom of Foord**, **Patrick Coburn of Clerkinton**, **George Heburn of Muncraig**, **Master Robert Sinclair of Lockermakous**, and **John Heburn of Smeeton**, for the Bounds of Haddingtonshire; And **John Lord Burleigh**, **Sir James Hacket of Pitfirren**, **John Mason Esquire**, **Alexander Colvill of Blair**, **Daniel Davison Esquire**,

Bruce of Kennet, **Robert Meldrum of Lillibody**, **Sir Charles Erskin of Ava**, **Wartlaw of Pitreby**, **James Heburn of Mensterry**, **Thomas Read Esquire**, and **John Cloberry Esquire**, for the North-side of Forth, by West the North-Queens-ferry;

And

And Charles Fairfax Esquire, John Mason Esquire, David Weemes of Finnes, David Beeton of Creigh, Sir James Melvill of Hall-hill, Rig of Adersley, and Beeton younger of Belfore, for the Bounds of the North-side the Water of Forth, by East the North-Queens-ferry to the Coal-Hugh of Dury inclusive; And Sir Andrew Bruce of Earlshall, Sir Thomas Gowerly of Kincraig, Sir Thomas Neart of Sanford, Sir James Lermont of Balchoiny, Andrew Bruce younger of Earlshall, Sir Thomas Hope of Craighall, Sir James Monypeny, and Sir James umsden younger, for the whole remenant Bounds in the North-side of Forth Within Fife, by East the Coal-Hugh of Dury. And because there are divers other Shires and Places Within this Nation, herein there is already Coal-Hughes, or may hereafter be found, and yet there is no Commissioners appointed by the said Act of Parliament, for putting the said Acts in execution within the same; There-
fore it is Ordered and Declared by the said Councill, That in all other Shires and places Wherein Coal-Hughes are, or shall be found hereafter, the Sheriffs of the Shires, and the Governours of the respective Garrisons Within the same, and the Justices of Peace Within the Bounds Where the said Coals are or shall be found, shal be Commissioners to the effect above and after specified: Providing alwayes, that the said Sheriffs and Justices of Peace be not Coal-Hasters, or otherwayes have interest in the said Coal-Hughes. And further, It is Ordered and Declared, That the Sheriffs of the Shires, and the Governours of the respective Garrisons Within the Bounds above-mentioned, shall be super-numerary and added to the Persons above-named Within the particular bounds abovementioned respectively. And it is Ordered, That the forenamed Persons, or any two of them as a Quorum, Within the severall Bounds respectively above-designed, shall use their

their respective bounds and places hereafter named
viz. **Sir Robert Drummond of Medop**, **Leonard Lyde**
Esquire, **Dundas elder of Dundas**,
Dundas younger of Dundas, **George Dundas of Du**
dston, **George Drummond of Carlowry**, **Andrew Br**
son, **Thomas Read Esquire**, **Sir Thomas Nicholson**
Carnock, **Sir William Bruce of Stenhouse**, **Clau**
Hamilton Esquire, **John Coburn Esquire**, for the
Bounds by West the Queens-ferry, to Stirling, up
the South-side of the Water of Forth; And **Hen**
Whalley Esquire, **Timothy Wilks Esquire**, **Sir Jame**
Macgill of Cranston, **Sir John Wauchop of Middery**
Samuel Johnston Esquire, **Richard Clifton Esquire**
William Walter Esquire, **Samuel Atkins Esquire**, **Job**
Phips Esquire, **Abraham Holmes Esquire**, **Jeremia**
Smith Esquire, **Andrew Abernethy Esquire**, **Mark Call**
of Cockpen, **William Purveis of Abyhill**, **Master Ro**
bert Preston, and **James Brown in Muscleburgh**, for
the whole Bounds of the Sheriffdom of Edinburgh
Principall; And **John Earl of Haddington**, **Sir Ro**
bert Fletcher of Saltoun, **Robert Hebrun of Keith**,

Coburn of Ormeston, **Patrick Coburn of Cle**
kington, **George Hume of Foord**, **William Earle**
Roxburgh, **John Earle of Tweedale**, **Sir Ada**
Hebrun of Humby, **Henry Whalley Esquire**, **Capta**
Thomas Symnell, **James Cockburn of Arneston**, **Rob**
Acheson of Sideserf Esquire, **George Hoom of Foo**
Patrick Cockburn of Clerkinton, **George Heburn**
Muncraig, **Master Robert Sinclair of Lockerme**
ous, and **John Heburn of Smeeton**, for the Bound
of Haddingtonshire; And **John Lord Burleigh**, **S**
James Hacket of Pittirren, **John Mason Esqui**
Alexander Colvill of Blair, **Daniel Davison Esqui**

Bruce of Kennet, **Robert Meldrum of L**
body, **Sir Charles Erskin of Ava**, **Wartla**
Pitreby, **James Heburn of Mensterry**, **Thomas R**
Esquire, and **John Cloberry Esquire**, for the North-
side of Forth, by West the North-Queens-ferry;
And

And Charles Fairfax **Esquire**, John Mason **Esquire**,
 David Weemes **of Finnes**, David Beeton **of Creigh**,
Sir James Melvill of Hall-hill, **Rig of Ader-**
ney, and Beeton younger of Belfore, for the
Bounds of the North-side the Water of Forth, by
East the North-Queens-ferry to the Coal-Hugh of
Dury inclusive; And Sir Andrew Bruce of Earlshall,
Sir Thomas Gowerly of Kincraig, Sir Thomas Nearn
of Sanford, Sir James Lermont of Balchoiny, An-
drew Bruce younger of Earlshall, Sir Thomas Hope
of Craighall, Sir James Monypeny, and Sir James
Lumsden younger, for the whole remianent Bounds
on the North-side of Forth within Fife, by East the
Coal-Hugh of Dury. And because there are divers
 other Shires and Places within this Nation,
 wherein there is already Coal-Hughes, or may here-
 after be found, and yet there is no Commissioners
 appointed by the said Act of Parliament, for putting
 the said Acts in execution within the same; There-
 fore it is Ordered and Declared by the said Councill,
 That in all other Shires and places wherein Coal-
 Hughes are, or shall be found hereafter, the Sheriffs
 of the Shires, and the Governours of the respective
 Garrisons within the same, and the Justices of
 Peace within the Bounds where the said Coals are
 or shall be found, shal be Commissioners to the effect
 above and after specified: Providing alwayes, that
 the said Sheriffs and Justices of Peace be not Coal-
 Masters, or otherwayes have interest in the said
 Coal-Hughes. And further, It is Ordered and
 Declared, That the Sheriffs of the Shires, and
 the Governours of the respective Garrisons within
 the Bounds above-mentioned, shall be super-nume-
 rary and added to the Persons above-named within
 the particular bounds abovementioned respectively.
 And it is Ordered, That the forenamed Persons, or
 any two of them as a Quorum, within the severall
 Bounds respectively above-designed, shall use their

best endeavours and diligence, for putting the said Act of Parliament, and Acts of Council, to due and timely execution; And that every Coal-Master serve the People of this Commonwealth readily, conform to the said Acts, and sell their Coals at the Prices and Rates particularly expressed and mentioned in the Acts and Decrees of Council concerning the Coal-Hughes. And where the said Acts of Council are not speciall, concerning the particular Rates, and Prices, and Measures of the said Coals, That the said Coal-Masters shal sell their Coals at the Prices, and with the Measures accustomed, and which has been in use at the said Coal-Hughes, by the space of seven years before the twentieth day of July, one thousand six hundred fourty four years, bring the date of the said Act of Parliament; And for this effect it is Ordered, That one of the Commissioners for each of the severall Bounds above-specified, shall visit the whole Harbours within the Bounds respectively above-mentioned, and shall cause the People of this Commonwealth to be readily served, conform to the foresaid Acts, with power also to the said Commissioners and their Quorum aforesaid, to appoint their Dyets and Places of Meeting within their Bounds respectively above-related, for the better and more exact putting in execution of the foresaid Acts; and upon the Complaint of any Person or Party grieved, to convene the said Coal-Masters, Coal-Greevers, and Collyers before them, or their Quorum, within their severall Bounds; and after Tryall, to inflict and uplift from the Persons found guilty, all such Un-laws, Penalties, and Fines, as are appointed by the foresaid Acts and Decrees of Council, and Act of Parliament aforesaid, to be applyed for the use of the Complainers. And it is hereby declared, That the said Coal-Masters, Coal-Greevers and Collyers shall be subject and lyable to the Jurisdiction and

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Sentence of the said Commissioners, or their Quorum Within the severall Bounds respectivly above-mentioned, and to the execution of the same Sentence, in so far as concerns the putting of the said Acts to due and exact execution, to effect before-mentioned. And it is Ordered, That Letters, and all execution necessary, shall be directed for Charging the said Commissioners, and each of them, to accept this Commission for the severall Bounds above-mentioned, and to do their exact diligence in putting the same to execution, in manner before prescrib-ed, as they will be answerable to the said Councill, and may expect to be Censured as the said Councill shall find their Faults or Negligence to deserve; And it is Ordered, That Letters, and all other ex-e-cution shall passe and be Directed upon all Sen-tences, to be pronounced by the said Commissioners or their Quorum. And further it is Declared, That in all such Shires, and Places Where Coal-Hughs are already, or shall be found hereafter, without the Bounds particularly above-mentioned; The She-rieffs of the Shire, Justices of Peace, and Govern-ours of the respective Garrisons (being qualified as is above express) shall be Impowered and Com-missionated, and oblieged to proceed for putting of the said Acts of Councill, and Parliament in ex-e-cution, in the same manner as the Persons above-named are Impowered, and appointed to proceed, within the particular Bounds above-mentioned.

Given at Edinburgh, the Twenty seventh day of March, One Thousand Six hundred Fifty Six.

Signed in the Name, and by Order of the Council.

B R O G H I L L, President.

Thursday, the 27. day of March, 1656.

At His Highnesse Councill in EDINBURGH,

Ordered that this DECLARATION be forthwith Printed and Published.

EMANUEL DOWNING,
Cl. of the Council.